

# word in action



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## Chat with our Chief Exec



Photography by Layton Thompson

**Q: In this issue we're hearing how young people around the world are engaging with the Bible, what was your encounter as a young person with Scripture?**

A: I grew up in a Christian family and I was surrounded by Scripture. Both of my grandfathers were Brethren Bible preachers and I was part of a youth group where Bible teaching was very central. What impacted me the most was how my family, particularly my parents, grandfathers and uncle, related to the Bible as trustworthy and reliable in their lives. It wasn't that they said the Bible relates to everything, but it's how they behaved when they talked about things with me. So I found it natural for the Bible to be a place where I would expect God to speak, to encounter God.

All of this was deeply reinforced through my discipleship at church and through my university years. The Bible had a profound impact on me, it became the compass through which I made decisions about my life, with prayer. I was very privileged to have that Christian family heritage and to have a church that had such good discipleship.

**Q: How can we help encourage young people to engage with the Bible?**

A: It's really important to excite young people with the Bible, with what an incredible book it is, and to empower them to engage with it for themselves. We have to avoid giving the impression that the Bible is a book that you can only access if you've had special training. It's true the Bible is quite complicated and interpretation isn't straightforward. But there's something remarkable about the Bible and the way the Holy Spirit works through it that means it's accessible at every level of ability and knowledge. God meets us through the Bible and will instruct us through it.

So anybody can encounter God and find comfort, direction and challenge through the text and have their horizons widened by it. You won't get to the end of what God wants to teach you through the Bible, it will keep on giving you more insight and wisdom. There are always more riches to search out. We want people to come to the Bible with a posture of expectation and excitement. It's not just a book to study, but a place of meeting with God that's very rich.

Welcome to our Winter 2018 edition, we're sending it in October rather than September, so Word in Action will arrive every four months.



We're celebrating the launch of our new Good News Bible - The Youth Edition. We hope you enjoy the sample enclosed and are able to share it with young people in your family, church and community. I was incredibly moved by the stories of transformation from two young men in Guatemala (pages 5) and fascinated by the story of Ellen Ranyard (pages 8 and 9) brought to life by Dr Sarah Williams - wife of our CEO Paul.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support for Bible Society, we deeply value your dedication!

Yours in Christ  
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Word in Action editor

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Youth for Christ

## Connecting the next generation with the Bible

For many people in different parts of the world, availability is the key barrier to people engaging with the Bible. However, at home in this country, it isn't a lack of Bibles that is the issue - simply that in today's culture many do not see the Bible as being relevant to them. This can be particularly true of many young people.

Standing out from the crowd because of your faith is hard for young people today for fear of social exclusion, and connecting the realities of their everyday life with God's word can also be difficult.

**So Bible Society and Youth for Christ have teamed up to create the Good News Bible - The Youth Edition - a Bible that connects with their world.**

We listened to young people, heard what mattered to them, and developed a Bible based on their ideas and feedback.

This new interactive Bible for young people gives them space to create, write, think, explore and question, while also giving them the confidence and tools to make a constructive difference in their world. It's also accompanied by YouTube videos - bringing the Bible to life in a place where they spend much of their time, with the aim of helping them tackle the kinds of issues they face.



Photography by Youth for Christ

After nearly two years in the making we think the new Good News Bible - The Youth Edition is pretty special, and we hope you will agree. Take a look for yourself at the enclosed sample, which will give you a flavour of the clear, readable style of the bestselling Good News translation, the 400 interactive elements that run throughout the Bible and the full-page introductions that feature before each book of the Bible showing what it's all about and how each fits into the bigger story.

In addition to this there are full-colour pages talking about tough topics, journalling and drawing space, timelines and key things to explore further.

The new Good News Bible - The Youth Edition aims to support young people whenever and wherever they need it. Whether they're interested in starting a relationship with God or developing it to a deeper level, this Bible is for them - helping in their journey in a way that's relevant, and addressing the issues they may be facing.

If you want to help the young people in your family or church to experience the Bible in a way that speaks to them, you can pre-order from our online shop. Copies are released on 16 October. **Visit [biblesociety.org.uk/youthbiblewia](http://biblesociety.org.uk/youthbiblewia)**

We will be launching this Bible at CRE 2018 in Sandown Park - use code BIB18 when registering for FREE tickets! **Visit [creonline.co.uk](http://creonline.co.uk)**

*A fantastic way of getting the most important book in the world into the hands of a new generation. I wholeheartedly commend Bible Society and Youth for Christ for working together on this vital initiative. Get a copy today for any young person you know.*

**Gavin Calver,  
Director of Mission,  
Evangelical Alliance**

# Sharing the Scriptures with students



Delegates from the workshop in Buenos Aires



Around the world, millions of students arrive at university every year, curious, bright and eager to learn. It's a time of intellectual exploration, when characters are formed and young lives are shaped by new ideas.

## So what role does the Bible have to play?

'Many young people have a secular worldview and think the Bible has nothing to say to them,' says Cristian Romocea, who leads our International Bible Advocacy Centre.

'They've had enough of leaders who talk the talk but don't walk it. They've grown up amid the institutional mismanagement that led to the financial crash, ethical scandals, corruption and polarised politics. This generation are cautious about claims not supported by authentic living – but they're also passionate about change and want to do good. So we need to show that their values are influenced by Christianity.'



We're working with colleagues to see the Bible increasingly discussed, debated and studied at universities around the globe. Earlier this year, 35 people from 21 countries came together to find out how to get God's word into higher education.

Three speakers led the workshop, which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and outlined the three stages to share Scripture with students.

'First, we need to understand the context,' said Cristian. 'We must get beneath and challenge the secular worldview held by so many young people. Then, we must change the context; we heard from a Christian academic who is helping to shape the curriculum in universities. Finally, we need to shine the light on ourselves, and see how we detoxify our lives and be true to our values.'

The idea now is that the 35 delegates go back to their own countries and develop projects to share the Bible in higher education. In Costa Rica, the



Photography by United Bible Societies

Bible Society team have developed a series of lectures for different courses; in the science faculty they host talks on the Bible and science, for example, and in the law faculty they invite speakers on the subject of the Bible and human rights. In Argentina, Christian lecturers fundraise to base themselves in universities and offer extra courses to students.

Cristian added, 'My hope is that our colleagues gain confidence by hearing that it's possible to get the Bible into universities, and go away with new ideas about how to do it. Please pray for those teams, and for the many students they will reach in the future.'

**To find out more about our International Bible Advocacy Centre go to [bibleadvocacy.org](http://bibleadvocacy.org)**



**Claire Smith**  
Freelance writer

# The gift of a second chance

Guatemala is consistently ranked as one of the 25 most dangerous countries in the world. Violent crime is attributed to endemic poverty, an abundance of weapons, a legacy of societal violence, and the presence of organized criminal gangs. Over half of the population are under 19 years old and youth gangs are widely perceived to be the single most important contributors to violence and insecurity in Central American cities.

Communities view young criminals very negatively. So many people have been victims of crime and violence that they find it difficult to show grace to young criminals, to offer them a second chance in life. But that is exactly what the Bible Society in Guatemala is doing with their juvenile detention programme called My Second Chance. The programme works with chaplains to visit juvenile detention centres every week sharing God's love and giving Bibles to 13-18 year old boys who have been incarcerated for violent crimes.

Stuart Noble, our Director of Strategic Partnerships, recently went to visit the Bible Society in Guatemala and see the project.

'During our trip we visited the Gaviotas Detention Centre, it was like an adult prison in this country but with shocking conditions. Paint was peeling off the walls, the cells were packed with teenage boys with shaved heads and there were guards everywhere. We were told to wear shoes without laces and remove our ties, rings and watches, anything that could be used as a weapon.'



Chaplains visiting teenage boys in Etapa detention centre

'We walked into a room with 30 teenage boys holding a church service. These were gang members who had become Christians through My Second Chance. One of them preached, one of them rapped his testimony, they had incredible stories of transformation through Jesus. We had the privilege of giving Bibles to some of the boys who hadn't received them yet.'

'One of the highlights of our time in Guatemala was having the opportunity to meet two young men who had been released from Etapa Detention Centre and became Christians through My Second Chance. The first was [redacted], now training to be a chef, who was in the detention centre for four years. I was deeply moved as he told his story. He said to me, "Now you see me smiling, but years ago you would see me crying."

I was a nobody. I was rejected. My life before Christ was truly a mess. It was controlled by so many bad influences. But I was truly given a second chance.'

'We also met [redacted] who was in Etapa for four years. He reached such a low point that he tried to commit suicide. But then he became a Christian through the programme and became a multiplier, a leader that helps with ministry in the detention centres. He said, "When no-one cared for me, Christ came and took me in. I am who I am because of him. Because of this programme I was able to know Jesus and my life was saved." Now [redacted] is a church pastor whose life has been transformed, "My past has been erased. We do nothing, it's God who makes those things possible."

The Bible Society in Guatemala is bringing the Bible to life in society, going into the darkest places in Guatemala to bring the Gospel to these boys, breaking the cycle of violence one life at a time.



Photography by Oida Mezava

Stuart Noble and Cristian Romocea (right)

Photo: Oida Mezava

# A chance to change a generation



**A**round 120 children are squatting on the floor, under the shade of a canopy outside a church. There's almost a room here. The walls are half-built, and the children sit within them, but the bricks wobble dangerously. There are no pictures, no chairs, no colouring pens, and just a handful of Bibles. This is the Manje Assemblies of God Sunday school, in Blantyre, Malawi – and the morning session is in full swing.

Sunday school teacher, 54-year-old Moses Sonani, is a bundle of energy and movement, leaping about between the children and leading them in lively memory verse chants and actions. It's heaps of fun – but Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, and it's clear the children lack so many things.

'These children have no toys to play with, we have no building, the children sit on the floor and get dusty and dirty,' Moses told us. 'We received the box of Bibles from Bible Society last year, and these were the first resources we have ever had. But we need around 200 more Bibles for all the children to have one.'

We're here to distribute another two boxes of children's Bibles among the young people. Each Bible costs £5 –

an unthinkable amount of money for these villagers, where monthly salaries can be as low as £25 – but they're provided free thanks to the support of people like you.

After Moses' Sunday school received Bibles last year, the number of children attending sessions grew from around 80 to 250. 'We have already seen the impact of these Bibles,' said Moses. 'They are easier to understand, so children can memorise and retell the stories. These children are growing spiritually, and the Bibles help us to nurture them into good, faithful Christians.'

As boxes of Bibles are brought forward, the children shuffle sideways to create a path and come up one by one to receive their copy. Joseph Khondowe, from our team in Malawi, hands out the Bibles and encourages each child to read from Scripture every day. The atmosphere is reverent and still. Children who have received Bibles flick through the pages as soon as they're sitting back down.

Twelve-year-old Gift (pictured left), who supports Manchester City and wants to be a pilot, said afterwards, 'I want to know God better and more, and I want to be saved. God is the one who created me and helps me,

and that's why I want to know him through this Bible.'

Around 90 Bibles are distributed in total, but still there are children who go home empty-handed. Sadly, that's the picture across Malawi. Our team distributed 3,000 children's Bibles last year, but could have given out 10 times that number, such is the demand. They tell us about one occasion when they turned up to a church with 120 Bibles, thinking that would be plenty – only to find 750 children in the Sunday school.

Joseph, who has been helping to distribute children's Bibles since 2015, said, 'This project could change Malawi. People will get to know God through these Bibles; there will be more children in churches, and their Bible knowledge will be deeper.'

'In the next 10 to 20 years, this generation will have grown up and will follow God not just in church but in all of their lives. It will change the country. Malawi will not be the same.'



**Claire Smith**  
Freelance writer

# An ordinary woman who inspired extraordinary change

## Ellen Ranyard

was born in 1810, just six years after the formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society. She came to faith at the age of sixteen through the influence of a young friend named Elizabeth Saunders. Saunders introduced Ranyard to the work of Bible Society and the two girls started visiting local families and introducing them to the Bible. Whilst raising a family of four, she found time to write three books about the Society, and when the family moved to London in 1857, she set about turning principles into action.

London tripled in size during Ranyard's lifetime and the effects of poverty and overcrowding were felt at every turn. Rural dwellers poured into the city unable to survive outside the new industrial factories where low-wages forced every member of the family into



employment. Railways carved through the urban landscape, re-mapping the social geography, segregating areas by class, and concentrating poverty in the slum-ridden urban core. Aware of the distress all around her, Ranyard drew on her knowledge of Bible Society to devise a scheme to help meet the urgent need.

What impressed Ranyard most about the work of Bible Society was the translation of the Scriptures into vernacular languages. Ranyard understood the act of translation as a form of 'native agency' that **set the Bible free to become part of the fabric of another culture.**

In her own immediate environment she saw well-meaning outsiders administering charity to the poor but returning at night to their comfortable homes in the suburbs leaving working-families patronised, alienated from the Church, and distanced from what appeared to be the middle-class world of the Bible. Working-class women, Ranyard argued, needed to encounter the

Bible in their own language and see its relevance in the lives of other women who, like them, knew how it felt to watch a husband spend hard-earned money on gin instead of food and blankets, trapped in a hopeless cycle of poverty and degradation.

Ranyard began with thirty-five women of the poorest class training them in needlework, cooking, counting, reading and basic nursing care, concentrating on what she called the 'missing link of friendship'. Bible Society supplied Ranyard with Bibles. With the help of her thirty-five Biblewomen, as they came to be known, Ranyard sold these Bibles to impoverished women on a penny a week installment basis enabling families to reclaim their dignity by learning how to save up to buy a Bible.

'It is not enough to read or speak the message' Ranyard wrote, 'without leading to the purchase of the book, for this involves seeking on part of the purchaser. It enlists [a woman] in the effort to raise herself

(E.H.Ranyard, True Institution of Sisterhood, London, 1862, p.20). With money earned from sales Ranyard paid her Biblewomen ten shillings a week, enough to provide an entire family with food and shelter. Once a sale had been made Ranyard's Biblewomen invited the purchaser to their home to meet with other women from the neighborhood who had also bought a Bible. In what was often little more than a one-room flat, local women received a warm welcome tea, conversation and friendship. They were taught to sew, to boil a broth, to dress a wound, as well as to read the Bible.

Using the new postal district maps of London Ranyard employed her considerable organisational skills to designate specific areas for each Biblewoman to cover. She mobilised Bible Society funding networks and communicated her vision to donors up and down the British Isles. Saving up for a Bible became a model for other savings schemes through which mothers were able to acquire school supplies and clothing for their children. Women's savings were

supplemented by gifts from Bible Society donors of 3 pence for every shilling saved. The projects were designed to lift whole families out of poverty. **The Bible became the gateway for change.**

By November 1860 Ranyard's initial group of 35 Biblewomen had grown to 137, and she found herself leading a vibrant interdenominational organisation known as the London Bible and Domestic Female Mission, an auxiliary branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Florence Nightingale learnt her trade as a nurse watching Ranyard's Biblewomen at work on the ground in London. Isabella Gilmore, an Anglican Deaconess and sister of the famous William Morris, looked to Ranyard's Biblewomen as an example of the successful introduction of paid work for women in Christian ministry.

**It was Ranyard's work that inspired Hudson Taylor to call women as itinerant evangelists with the China Inland Mission in 1865.** In 1869, the structures used by Ranyard

were incorporated into the Charity Organisation Service to form the basis for the systematic relief of poverty in London. These structures in turn formed the basis for the NHS district nursing services that developed throughout Britain after 1947. Historians have in recent years pointed to the formative role that Ranyard's Bible Mission played in cultivating a sense of female solidarity and galvanising the organised women's movement in the late nineteenth century.

### **Ranyard's story needs to be told.**

She was an ordinary woman who combined faith with imagination. She believed quite simply that lasting economic, social and political change could happen if ordinary people encountered the Bible and made it their own.



### **Dr Sarah C. Williams**

Research Professor in the History of Christianity, Regent College



Photography by Geoff Crawford

## Theresa May joins 170 Peers and MPs at the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

### Theresa May

became the third Prime Minister to attend the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast at the Houses of Parliament in June.



The Prime Minister joined with 470 other Peers, Members of Parliament and church leaders, in prayers for the country, its leaders and for the poor and marginalised. In a written statement, the Prime Minister said that 'the Christian gospel has transformed the United Kingdom, with its values and teachings helping to shape the laws, customs and society of the country.'

She added that the Prayer Breakfast was 'an excellent opportunity both to celebrate Christians' ongoing contribution to this country and to reflect on the role Christianity can play in contemporary public life.'

And, she urged those attending the annual event to continue their 'engagement as Christians in public life for the common good of all.'

The keynote speaker, Tim Keller, a Presbyterian pastor from America,

echoed this statement saying that Britain had 'been shaped by Christianity.'

'The ethos that we all take for granted, is the fruit of the Bible and Christianity,' he said, adding that 'what society needed' was 'millions of people who have been shaped by the self-giving of Jesus Christ.'

He added that, 'British society should let Christians be different, and Muslims be different. They should not say, "You must be secular". Christians benefit society more when they are not just like everyone else in society.'

The event was attended by 170 Members of Parliament from all sides of the House, Peers, the Speaker and Black Rod. They included Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Tim Farron MP, Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP and Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP. Ian Blackford MP, who chaired the event, said it was 'very significant' that the Prime Minister had attended.

'I'm delighted that the Prime Minister was here to show her support,' he said. 'The National Prayer Breakfast is the highlight of the year for Christians in Parliament.'

Tim Farron MP, former leader of the Liberal Democrats, described the event as 'massively inspiring and genuinely moving.'

He encouraged Christians to get involved in politics. 'Don't let my experience put you off,' he joked. 'For me, if I wanted to be consistent and to not car crash my faith, I had to step down. But the glass ceiling for Christians in politics is relatively high.'

'Christianity is, and should be, counter-cultural,' he said. 'If you are not getting a bit of stick, you are doing something wrong.'

Bible Society are the principal sponsor of the National Prayer Breakfast. Our CEO, Paul Williams said the event was 'encouraging and moving.'

'We want to encourage the Church to recover confidence in the Bible,' he said adding that through that Christians would be able to 'help preserve what's good and draw out what's best in society.'



**Hazel Southam**  
Chief reporter

## Celebrate Bible Sunday



Photography by Jon Challicom

**O**n Sunday 28 October churches just like yours around the country will be celebrating Bible Sunday. It's a time to focus on the importance of the Bible in our lives, as individuals and congregations. This year we've got all sorts of ways to help everyone from your church celebrate the Bible using the Lectionary reading 2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.5. Many of us know the memory verse 'All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.' But what does that have to do with the way I think, live my life, love my neighbour?

**You can find out from our resources at [biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday](http://biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday) or call 01793 418222.**



We're thrilled to announce that this year's Bible Sunday Sermon has been written by Krish Kandiah. His sermon encourages and challenges our churches to pay close attention to Scripture which makes us wise for salvation, draw closer in intimacy with God, be equipped to serve God and stay faithful to him.

New this year is a Youth Talk. Rachael Markham, Church Relationship Manager for Bible Society has written this to equip you to communicate

clearly with your young people. She's included lots of engaging questions, discussion starters and advice on where to pick up our video about Fida, a refugee in Jordan, so the group can see her passion for the Bible.

Last, but by no means least, is the lively and exciting All Age Worship resource written by Ali Jensen of Lisvane Baptist Church. If you're looking for an engaging service for the whole family with everything from water pistols to quiet reflection, then this is the pack for you. You can use this to run an entire service, junior church or after school club. As the name suggests, there's something for every age here so that you can explore God's word together as a church family.

We have a vision of a world where everyone has access to the Bible and can recognise its value for them, their families and communities. For a glimpse of what this looks like for Fida, who is a refugee in Jordan, why not show our short video? You can hear how Matthew 28.20 is an example of the Bible promising Fida that God will be with her always, even until the end of the world. We hope you'll see your congregation being inspired to pick up the Bible for themselves to see what it has to say to them.

**Download the resources for FREE from [biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday](http://biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday)**

# CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

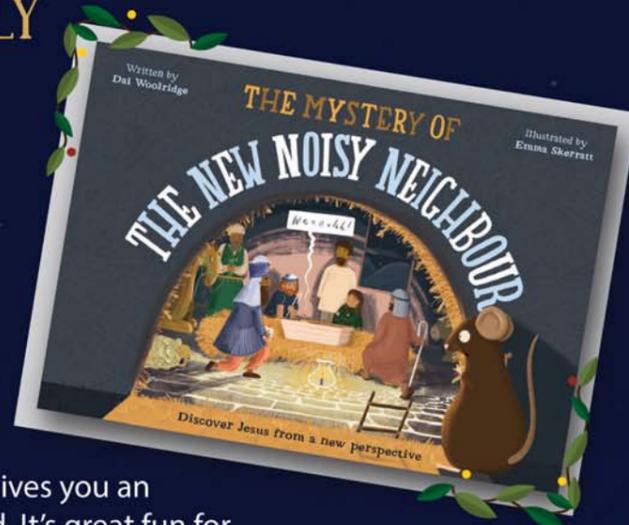
We all know the nativity story, right? The stable, the shepherds, the star, the wise men... But what's going on beneath the surface? Could there be more to it? What if we all understood the Christmas story better?

Our prayer is that you'll discover a different perspective on the story you know so well, you'll share the big story of the Bible with others, and you'll see how Christmas changes everything.

## MORE TO CHRISTMAS FOR YOUR CHURCH AND FAMILY

### Children's story booklet

How do we help children get under the skin of a tale that's been told for generations? Our new story, *The Mystery of the New Noisy Neighbour*, places a mouse detective at the heart of the action – and he slowly discovers who Jesus really is... Emmanuel, Rescuer and King.



### Instant nativity

*The Mystery of the New Noisy Neighbour* script gives you an instant nativity play, with no rehearsals needed. It's great fun for your church Christmas services. Download your free script online.

### Christmas cards

Order your Christmas cards from us this year. These cards will help you share that there's more to Christmas. With every purchase you'll also be supporting Bible Society's work around the world.

### Stocking fillers and resources

Our online shop has a stash of goodies to help you understand the big story of the Bible better, and discover there's more to Christmas.

## MORE TO CHRISTMAS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

### Come and Sing the Christmas Story

These colourful carol booklets, produced in partnership with HOPE, feature the words to 12 well-known carols. They're ideal for large outdoor carol services for people of all faiths or none. Inside, the Bible story in a nutshell might show people there's more to Christmas than they think.



### Matt and Luke's Four Minute Nativity

Share the nativity story in your community with this short play, written by comedian Paul Kerensa. It's a great way to bring the Bible to life and have some fun. Why not perform it alongside a community carol event? There are 14 parts in the script. Oh, and it lasts about four minutes.



### #AdventChallenge

Advent is more than a Christmas countdown – these daily reflections and challenges will connect the Bible with everyday life and give you a new perspective on the nativity.

### Just Hay in the Manger booklet

*Just Hay in the Manger* is a short booklet which unpacks the people, places and politics of Jesus' birth. Discover more about the nativity story – ideal as a Christmas service giveaway.

For these resources visit:

[biblesociety.org.uk/Christmas](https://biblesociety.org.uk/Christmas)

Or call: 01793 418300



# YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS

Following our article asking for prayer for Algeria in the last edition of *Word in Action* we are delighted to tell you that two of the churches that were closed in Algeria have been reopened! We are full of gratitude for this answer to prayer, and an answer to the big international campaign Ali (General Secretary of the Bible Society in Algeria) and other church leaders in Algeria have been leading in order to inform public opinion in the West of what is happening. Please continue to pray for the other Algerian churches still closed – and for the Bible Society in Algeria to get a license to import Scriptures, after seeking one for over a year.

LARISSA, WORD IN ACTION EDITOR

To read about those who remain faithful and dedicated Christians through trials and conflicts strengthens my faith, and their desire to read the Bible encourages me. Thank you for all that you do to help those in need.

SHEILA, THETFORD

*Word in Action* is an excellent publication and we look forward to it. We find it informative and inspiring. Your account of Christians in Turkey coming together is a splendid example.

REVD CANON DAVID, SALFORD

Thank you for all the work you all do for our Lord. 'May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you. Wherever He may send you. May He guide you through the wilderness, Protect you from the storm. May He bring you home rejoicing At the wonders He has shown you. May He bring you home rejoicing Once more unto your home.'

NORTHUMBRIAN COMMUNITY  
GILLIAN, EASTBOURNE



I found the stories very moving and the contributors extremely brave.

DAVID, NOTTINGHAM

Really helpful to lift my eyes from the mundane and comfortable life in the UK to see the amazing work Bible Society is achieving at the coal face. May God continue to bless all your work in His name.

TIM, PRESTATYN

I find that reading *Word in Action* is very interesting and inspiring. The article on Morocco left me in deep admiration and wonderment at the strength of people's faith, a must for my prayer list.

EDNA, BERKHAMSTED

## WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email us your thoughts and comments at [wia@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:wia@biblesociety.org.uk) or use the comments form attached. We reserve the right to edit letters for style and length. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Bible Society.

One verse



Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1.9*

These words are so significant to me. I spent my first 12 years overseas and lived in four different countries. Not much in my life has stayed the same, except the little things. When I was six, I went to a Christian festival and we studied this verse and I

memorised it. A few years later, I moved again; this time it was very difficult. I felt very upset and lonely for about a year and I just couldn't connect to the people around me. After a year I went away with my church youth group and was reminded of this verse. Through all my struggles it makes me remember that no matter where I go I will never be alone.

Molly O'Boyle  
15 years old

## Biblepeople:

Clapperton Mayuni has been with the Bible Society in Malawi for 32 years. He became General Secretary in 2005 and will serve for four more years until he retires. He's seen huge strides forward in Bible mission in that time. Seven out of 18 languages in Malawi now have a Bible translation, meaning 98% of the population has access to Scripture in their language. Some 110,000 Bibles are distributed every year. An office has been opened in Lilongwe. And in 2015, the team hosted an

international conference (ABLI) about the Bible and leadership, attended by political and church leaders from across Africa.

But it's the little things that mean the most. 'I recently met a man who could recite 36 chapters of the Bible, including the whole of Psalm 119,' said Clapperton. 'I asked him how he had learnt this. He told me he used to listen through the night to our audio Bible broadcasts.'



He added, 'We never knew we were blessing people like this, but the Lord helps us to see. The Word of God is not empty words. This is our very life.'

## Remembrance Sunday

If you are planning a Remembrance event in your community, we can help you. We have a Remembrance Sunday order of service, based on the wonderful verses from Revelation 21.3 – 5. There's a special video to use in your service, in which these words will be spoken by people from across the UK.

For your copy of *Hear My Cry*, at a special price of just £1.50, visit: [biblesociety.org.uk/hearmycry](http://biblesociety.org.uk/hearmycry)

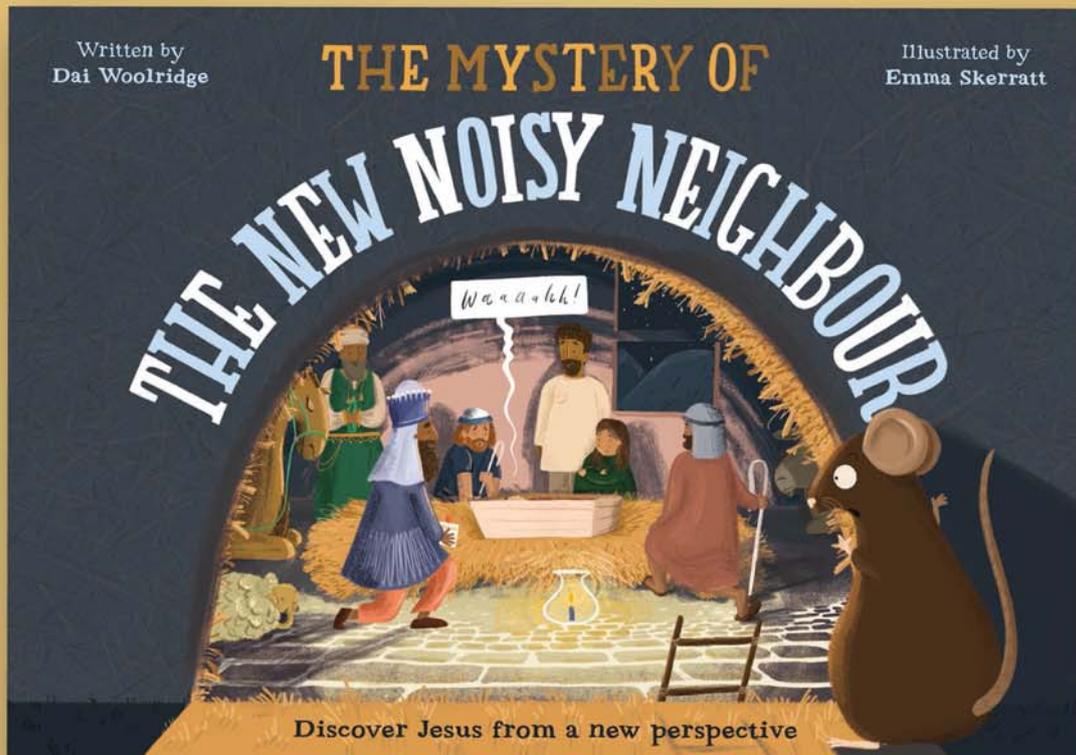
To get your free copies of the Remembrance Sunday service plan, sermon notes and video, visit: [biblesociety.org.uk/worldwar1](http://biblesociety.org.uk/worldwar1)



Bible  
Society

BRAND NEW  
CHILDREN'S BOOKLET

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY



How do we help children get beneath the surface of a tale that's been told for generations? Our new children's story, *The Mystery of the New Noisy Neighbour*, slowly uncovers who Jesus really is...

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